



October 6, 2021

Mayor Jorge Elorza  
City of Providence  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

Department of Transportation  
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Providence, RI 02903

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RE: Changes to South Water Street

Dear Mayor Elorza,

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has observed, but neither RIDOT nor the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) was ever notified that the City of Providence has begun making significant changes to South Water Street in Providence that are inconsistent with the Construction & Maintenance Agreement (C&M Agreement) signed by the City, RIDOT and FHWA on July 21, 1999. The purpose of the C&M Agreement was to use federal and state dollars to reconstruct South Water Street per the approved plans and specifications from the 1999 RI Contract 9910.

RIDOT made significant improvements to South Water Street using federal and state funds. The City signed the C&M Agreement requiring the City to, “...regulate the moving and guiding operations of vehicles and pedestrians in conformance with the specifications of the approved plans for the Project.” The C&M Agreement also required the City to “maintain all portions of the Project at its own cost and expense, including roadways, boardwalks, pavilions and landscaping...in a manner satisfactory to the STATE.” Finally, per C&M Agreement Section 7, any changes other than for transportation purposes require state and federal approval. The changes observed are not in conformance with the project specifications. RIDOT and FHWA never reviewed or approved any plans or studies to determine if the changes are satisfactory.

Therefore, per the C&M Agreement, please stop all construction activity to the roadway on South Water Street in Providence until RIDOT and FHWA have been given the opportunity to determine if the proposed changes are acceptable and consistent with the 1999 Project. Also, be advised that failure to comply with this request may place the City in jeopardy to reimburse the State and FHWA for the costs of the 1999 Project in the amount of approximately \$4.4 million.

Sincerely,

Peter Alviti, P.E.  
Director

cc: Dana, J.; Nickerson, B; Machado, C.; Rocchio, R.; Beltram, M.; Foster, M.; Parker, C.